

IN THE CLAIMS:

Each of the claims that remains pending and under consideration in the above-referenced application is reproduced below, in clean form, for the sake of clarity. A marked-up version of each amended claim is also enclosed herewith to clearly identify each change that has been made thereto.

Please cancel claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 17, 18, and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please enter the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A spin coating method, comprising:
applying a material to a substrate;
B¹ spinning said substrate and said material at a first speed;
following said spinning, decreasing a rate of said spinning to a second speed; and
following said decreasing, gradually increasing a rate of said spinning to a third speed.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said spinning said substrate and said material at said first speed comprises substantially filling recesses formed in said substrate with said material.

3. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said decreasing said rate of spinning to said second speed comprises permitting material located within recesses formed in said substrate to set.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
B² spinning said substrate and said material at said third speed to form a layer comprising said material over a surface of said substrate to a desired thickness.

B³ 7. (Amended) A spin coating method, comprising:
applying a material to a substrate;
spinning said substrate and said material at a first speed that permits said material to flow into
recesses formed in said substrate;
spinning said substrate at a second speed that permits said material within said recesses to set;
and
following said spinning said substrate at said second speed, gradually increasing a rate of
spinning of said substrate to a third speed.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said spinning said substrate at said second speed
follows said spinning said substrate at said first speed.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said spinning said substrate at said second speed
comprises decreasing a rate at which said substrate is spun.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein said spinning said substrate and said material at
said first speed comprises substantially filling said recesses with said material.

B⁴ 11. (Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
spinning said substrate and said material at said third speed comprises to form a layer comprising
said material over a surface of said substrate to a desired thickness.

B⁵ 14. (Amended) A spin coating method, comprising:
applying a material to a substrate;
spinning said substrate at a first speed to at least partially spread said material;
following said spinning said substrate at said first speed, spinning said substrate at a second
speed to permit at least some of said material to flow into at least one recess formed in
said substrate; and
following said spinning said substrate at said second speed, gradually increasing a rate of
spinning of said substrate to a third speed.

15. (Previously amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said spinning said
substrate at said first speed comprises substantially filling said at least one recess with said
material.

16. (Previously amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said spinning said
substrate at said second speed comprises spinning said substrate at a speed that is slower than
said first speed.

B⁶ 20. (Twice amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
spinning said substrate at said third speed to form a layer comprising said material over a surface
of said substrate to a desired thickness.

Please add the following new claims:

-- B⁷ 21. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
following said gradually increasing, again decreasing a rate of spinning of said substrate to a
fourth speed.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, comprising permitting said material to set further
while spinning said substrate at said fourth speed.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
following said again decreasing, again increasing a rate of spinning of said substrate to a fifth speed.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, comprising substantially removing solvent from said material while spinning said substrate at said fifth speed.

25. (New) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
following said gradually increasing, again decreasing a rate of spinning of said substrate to a fourth speed.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, comprising permitting said material to set further while spinning said substrate at said fourth speed.

27. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising:
following said again decreasing, again increasing a rate of spinning of said substrate to a fifth speed.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, comprising substantially removing solvent from said material while spinning said substrate at said fifth speed.

29. (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
following said gradually increasing, again decreasing a rate of spinning of said substrate to a fourth speed.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, comprising permitting said material to set further while spinning said substrate at said fourth speed.

31. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising:
following said again decreasing, again increasing a rate of spinning of said substrate to a fifth speed.

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cont.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, comprising substantially removing solvent from said material while spinning said substrate at said fifth speed.--
